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Message Text

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64
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 SY-05 MCT-01 EB-07

L-03 H-02 SS-15 IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /112 W
---------- 118143
R 161115Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8902

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DEPARTMENT PASS AID AND FAA

DEPARTMENT FOR H AND S/CCT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR EG
SUBJ: CAIRO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SECURITY

REF: (A) CAIRO 15570, B) CAIRO 11694, C) CAIRO 14754

1. DURING RIDE TO AIRPORT NOVEMBER 15 TO SEE CODEL ABOUREZK OFF, DCM DISCUSSED CAIRO AIRPORT SECURITY WITH SENATOR ABOUREZK, EXPLAINING RECENT VISIT OF FAA AIRPORT SECURITY TEAM AND ITS EXCELLENT REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT. DCM NOTED THAT AID HAD INFORMED EMBASSY THAT ITS INTERPRETATION OF SECTION 660 OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT PRECLUDED USE OF AID FUNDING OF SECURITY AND OTHER EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO BRING ABOUT SAFER PROCEDURES AT AIRPORT. SENATOR ABOUREZK SAID HE HAD BEEN AUTHOR OF THIS AMENDMENT TO FAA, WHICH HAD BEEN AIMED AT PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING IN LATIN AMERICAN DICTATORSHIPS. SENATOR ASSERTED THAT SECTION 660 WAS NOT INTENDED TO PRECLUDE ASSISTANCE IN ANTI-HIJACKING MEASURES, AND SAID HE WOULD BE GLAD TO INTRODUCE A BILL WHICH WOULD PERMIT AID ASSISTANCE IN THIS FIELD. HE ASKED THAT DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS RETURN TO U.S. TO WORK OUT APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE. SENATOR READILY AGREED THAT CAIRO AIRPORT SECURITY WAS
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VERY LAX AND WE SHOULD DO WHAT WE COULD TO IMPROVE IT.

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2. AMBASSADOR ALSO HAD OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS THIS QUESTION
WITH SEVERAL MEMBERS OF CODEL RIBICOFF/BAKER. SENATOR
RIBICOFF AND OTHER SEEMED UNAWARE THAT AID FUNDS COULD
NOT BE USED FOR ANTI-HIJACKING MEASURES, BUT SAID
THEY WOULD LOOK INTO QUESTION ON THEIR RETURN TO U.S.
TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE ABOUT MATTER.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: I URGE THAT DEPARTMENT FOLLOW-
UP URGENTLY WITH SENATOR ABOUREZK AND OTHER CODEL MEMBERS TO EXPLORE
WHAT MAY BE NEEDED TO PERMIT THE USE OF AID FUNDS FOR
ANTI-HIJACKING EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING AS THEY PERTAIN TO
AIRPORT SECURITY.
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